Trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1920 L STREET, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 · 202/293-4196

A 327-2

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 24, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 19 totaled an estimated 17.7 billion ton-miles, 1.4 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 16 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 280 billion ton-miles, 7.7 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended April 19 totaled 450,304 cars, 7.0 percent below 1979, but 1.1 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 10.3 percent in the East, 2.7 percent in the South, and 6.9 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 18 of the 21 commodity groups declined. However, coal loadings totaled 115,916, up 4.0 percent over 1979. Grain loadings were up 5,166 cars, or 21.6 percent. Fourteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended April 12 totaled 30,982 cars, down 15.0 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 57,266 trailers and/or containers, 10.4 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 15 weeks of the year was 502,473 cars, 3.5 percent lower than last year, and 911,674 trailers and/or containers, down 1.3 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/19/80.

	Loadings in Week ended April 19, 1980	Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week		
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	29,129	I	5,166	21.6	I	772	2.7
Other farm products	3,501	D	273	7.2	I	72	2.1
Metallic ores	31,471	I	675	2.2	I	1,491	5.0
Coal	115,916	I	4,462	4.0	D	1,948	1.7
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,527	D	4,446	24.7	D	319	2.3
Nonmetallic minerals	15,097	D	332	2.2	I	208	1.4
Grain mill products	16,786	D	856	4.9	I	235	1.4
Food and kindred products	17,618	D	699	3.8	I	334	1.9
Primary forest products	18,493	D	2,336	11.2	I	133	0.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,930	D	4,484	36.1	I	105	1.3
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,413	D	1,426	6.5	D	4	0.0
Chemicals and allied products	27,599	D	4,898	15.1	D	828	2.9
Petroleum products	5,776	D	951	14.1	D	499	8.0
Stone, clay and glass products	15,892	D	3,868	19.6	I	288	1.8
Coke	6,347	D	1,809	22.2	D	624	9.0
Metals and products	18,454	D	4,456	19.5	I	406	2.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,834	D	6,765	27.5	I	1,566	9.6
Waste and scrap materials	14,322	D	235	1.6	I	1,093	8.3
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,936	D	2,273	17.2	I	314	3.0
All other carloads	43,076	D	3,645	7.8	I	1,941	4.7
LCL traffic	187	D	266	58.7	D	2	1.1
Total Cars Loaded	450,304	D	33,715	7.0	I	4,734	1.1
Corresponding week of 1979	484,019						

	1980	1979	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (16 weeks)	7,054,314	6,933,557	I	1.7
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
15 weeks cumulative	262.3	242.0	I	8.4
Week ended April 19	17.7	18.0	D	1.4
16 weeks cumulative	280.0	259.9	I	7.7

AARt-042480